

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): An area light emitting device for use with ~~an optical member a liquid crystal panel~~, the area light emitting device comprising:
a transparent or translucent substrate; and
an area light emitting element arranged directly on and supported by the substrate;
wherein:
the substrate includes a first surface facing the area light emitting element and a second surface facing away from the area light emitting element;
the area light emitting element emits light that enters the first surface and exits from the second surface; and
the second surface includes a recess for accommodating the ~~optical member liquid crystal panel~~, and
~~in which~~ the optical member changes the characteristics of light emitted from the area light emitting element.

2 (ORIGINAL): The area light emitting device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the recess is positioned substantially at the center of the second surface.

3 (ORIGINAL): The area light emitting device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the recess is defined by a bottom surface and side surfaces surrounding the entire periphery of the bottom surface.

4 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The area light emitting device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the recess completely accommodates the entire ~~optical member~~ liquid crystal panel.

5 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The area light emitting device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the recess has a depth, and the ~~optical member~~ liquid crystal panel has a thickness, the depth of the recess being greater than the thickness of the ~~optical member~~ liquid crystal panel.

6 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The area light emitting device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the recess has a depth, and the ~~optical member~~ liquid crystal panel has a thickness, the depth of the recess being substantially the same as the thickness of the ~~optical member~~ liquid crystal panel.

7 (ORIGINAL): The area light emitting device as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least the bottom surface of the recess is a rough surface.

8 (ORIGINAL): The area light emitting device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bottom surface of the recess has an arithmetic mean roughness Ra of 0.1 μm to 10 μm .

9 (ORIGINAL): The area light emitting device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the area light emitting element is an organic electroluminescence element.

10 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): An optical device comprising:

~~an optical member~~ a liquid crystal panel; and

an area light emitting device including a transparent or translucent substrate; and

an area light emitting element arranged directly on and supported by the substrate;

wherein:

the substrate includes a first surface facing the area light emitting element and a second surface facing away from the area light emitting element;

the area light emitting element emits light that enters the first surface and exits from the second surface; and

the second surface includes a recess for accommodating the ~~optical member~~ liquid crystal panel, and

~~in which the optical member~~ liquid crystal panel changes the characteristics of light emitted from the area light emitting element.

11 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The optical device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the

recess completely accommodates the entire ~~optical member~~ liquid crystal panel.

12 (WITHDRAWN): A method for manufacturing an area light emitting device including a transparent or translucent substrate and an area light emitting element arranged on the transparent substrate for use with an optical member, the method comprising:

preparing the substrate to include a first surface and a second surface, with the first surface and the second surface being located on opposite sides of the substrate;

forming the area light emitting element on the first surface of the substrate, wherein the area light emitting element emits light that enters the first surface and exits from the second surface; and

forming a recess in the second surface of the substrate after said forming of the area light emitting element, wherein the recess is capable of accommodating the optical member in which the optical member changes the characteristics of light emitted from the area light emitting element.

13 (WITHDRAWN): The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said forming a recess includes sandblasting the second surface of the substrate.

14 (WITHDRAWN): The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said forming a recess includes:

covering the second surface, excluding the portion in which the recess is to be formed, with a mask; and

sandblasting the second surface in a state covered by the mask to form the recess in the portion of the second surface exposed from the mask.

15 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The area light emitting device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the area light emitting device is an electroluminescence device and the ~~optical member liquid crystal panel~~ is a liquid crystal panel.

16 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The optical device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the optical device is a liquid crystal device, the ~~optical member liquid crystal panel~~ is a liquid crystal panel, and the area light emitting device is an electroluminescence device.